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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SP-02 HEW-04 AGRE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1147

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FROM THE AMBASSADOR

STATE/AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SPOP
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE DIALOGUE ALREADY EXISTS. ALSO, THAT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, JAMAICA HAS BEEN A LEADER WITHIN THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN CARRYING OUT STRONG NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO CURTAIL POPULATION GROWTH. INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IS ONE OF THE GOJ'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES AND BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES ARE DEDICATED TO THE GOAL OF RAISING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE POOR, THROUGH BETTER NUTRITION, FAMILY PLANNING AND IMPROVED SERVICES OF ALL KINDS. OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HAVE AFFORDED ALL OF US AT THIS MISSION MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO RE-INFORCE JAMAICA'S ALREADY SHARP FOCUS ON THESE PROBLEMS AND TO ACT IN OTHER WAYS TO CARRY OUT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES AND PRIORITIES AS ENUNCIATED BY THE SECRETARY. U.S. AND
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HOST GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN THIS AREA MIGHT BE ENHANCED IF HOST COUNTRY IN-DEPTH EVALUATIONS OF POPULATION AND FOOD PROGRAMS WERE UNDERTAKEN, SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY THE USG WHERE APPROPRIATE. END SUMMARY.

2. JAMAICA'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE POPULATION AREA ARE HIGHLY REGARDED IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. OFFICIALS

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FROM OTHER NATIONS HAVE VISITED JAMAICA TO LEARN FROM THE
JAMAICAN EXPERIENCE. THROUGH ITS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM, THE USG HAS BEEN JAMAICA'S LARGEST SINGLE SOURCE
OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IN FAMILY PLANNING. WE HAVE BEEN
ASSOCIATED WITH THE EFFORT FOR A DECADE AND, BECAUSE OF
JAMAICA'S POLICY AND ATTITUDE, HAVE DONE SO WITHOUT SERIOUS
UNFAVORABLE POLITICAL FALL-OUT. AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING
DIALOG WE WITH THE JAMAICANS, AT ALL LEVELS INCLUDING THE
PRIME MINISTER, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, AND OTHER MINISTERS,
WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE IDEA OF AN IN-DEPTH EVALUATION OF
THEIR PROGRAM AND THE JAMAICANS HAVE RSPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY.
THIS IS TO BE LAUNCHED SHORTLY AND WILL BE USED AS THE BASIS
FOR MODIFYING AND STRENGTHENING JAMAICA'S FAMILY PLANNING
ACTIVITIES AND OUR ASSISTANCE. DESPITE THEIR PROGRESS,
JAMAICANS ARE AWARE THAT MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.
THIS RECOGNITION IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE EXTENT TO
WHICH JAMAICA HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION, AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE
TO DO SO, IN THIS ISSUE.

3. THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR HAS BEEN ACCORDED JAMAICA'S
HIGHEST PRIORITY, AS REFLECTED IN LAST YEAR'S EMERGENCY
PRODUCTION PLAN AND IN THE GOJ'S FIVE YEAR PLAN, NOW
NEARING COMPLETION. A KEY GOAL IN THESE PLANS IS THE
RAISING OF FOOD PRODUCTION. THE GOJ, AS A MATTER OF
PHILOSOPHY AND POLICY, IS DETERMINED TO IMPROVE THE
HEALTH/NUTRITION STATUS OF ITS POOR, BY INCREASED FOOD
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PRODUCTION AS WELL AS IN OTHER WAYS. ITS SERIOUS BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS SITUATION AND ITS HEAVY RELIANCE ON FOOD
IMPORTS IS ANOTHER MAJOR INCENTIVE FOR IT TO GO ALL OUT
IN THE FOOD AREA. TO FURTHER THESE OBJECTIVES, THE GOJ
FOUR YEARS AGO ADOPTED A LAND-LEASE PROGRAM, OF WHICH
ONE MAJOR TARGET WAS TO INCREASE DOMESTIC FOOD OUTPUT.
SEVERAL RIVER BASINS ARE BEING DEVELOPED TO IMPROVE LAND
USE, EXTEND IRRIGATION AND RAISE AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT,
ESPECIALLY FOOD. AS REFLECTED IN MANLEY'S DISCUSSION
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER LAST DECEMBER, THE PRIME MINISTER'S
HIGHEST PRIORITY PROJECT IS HIS "BENCH TERRACING" PROJECT
TO USE THE HILL-SIDES OF JAMAICA FOR MORE FOOD PRODUCTION.
AS HE MENTIONED TO THE PRESIDENT, HE IS SEEKING EAO,
NORWEGIAN, USG AND OTHER EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIS
PROGRAM. USAID IS, INFFACT, ALREADY COOPERATING IN TWO
OF THE RIVER BASINS. US PL 480 ASSISTANCE IS RECOGNIZED
BY THE GOJ AS NECESSARY INTERIM HELP WHILE REFORM AND
OTHER MEASURES TO RAISE DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION TAKE
HOLD. THE GOJ AND USG HAVE JOINTLY PROGRAMMED PL 480
AND OTHER COUNTERPART FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, REFLECTING
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY, AND WHOLEHEARTED GOJ
COOPERATION, TO MAKE U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE AS DEVELOPMENTALLY

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EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE.

4. AS REFTEL SUGGESTS, WE WILL CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE AND RE-INFORCE OUR EFFORTS. WE SEE THESE EFFORTS BEING MOST EFFECTIVE IF THEY TAKE TWO FORMS: (2) RE-INFORCING THE GOALS AND APPROACHES OF KEY LEADERS, OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHILE BRINGING THEIR ATTENTION TO CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS ON WHERE ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE INCREASINGLY CONCENTRATED; AND, (B) DOING OUR TECHNICAL BEST, AS DONORS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS, TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS WHICH MAKE THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF JAMAICAN AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES.

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5. IN THINKING OF WAYS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. PROGRAMS, AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL PARA. 8, WE BECAME ACUTELY AWARE, AS THIS CABLE REFLECTS, OF THE NEED TO BE DISCRIMINATING IN HOW THESE MATTERS ARE APPROACHED IN EACH COUNTRY. OUR OWN EXPERIENCE, WHICH MAY BE USEFUL IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUGGESTS THAT WE MAY IMPROVE HOST NATION AND OUT PERFORMANCE BY ENCOURAGING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS OF FAMILY PLANNING AND/OR FOOD PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES AND BY BEING PARTICULARLY FORTH-COMING IN OFFERING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THESE EVALUATIONS/ASSESSMENTS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT WE COULD INVOLVE OTHER DONORS IN THESE ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE WORLD BANK ON THE PLANNED FAMILY PLANNING EVALUATION. BEYOND THE AREA OF EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS, IT MAY ALSO BE APPROPRIATE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER DONORS ON WAYS IN WHICH, SINGLY OR JOINTLY, WE COULD GIVE ADDED IMPULSE TO THE ATTENTION GIVEN THESE CRITICAL GLOBAL PROBLEMS. HERE, TOO, THE SITUATION NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS AS WELL AS, PERHAPS, DISCUSSED AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.
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